

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 1 to 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 20 to 44.

20. (new) A method of treating pain in mammal suffering from pain comprising administering a composition comprising an amount of Glial Cell Line-Derived Neurotropic Factor (GDNF) effective to alleviate the pain in the mammal.

21. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the GDNF alters tetrodotoxin-sensitive sodium ion current in neuronal cells.

22. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the neuronal cells are selected from the group consisting of dorsal root ganglia neurons and trigeminal neurons.

23. (new) The method of claim 22 wherein the dorsal root ganglia neurons are small dorsal root ganglia neurons.

24. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change in activity of at least one NaN sodium channel.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the activity of the NaN sodium channel activity is increased.

26. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change in expression of at least one NaN sodium channel.

27. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the expression of the NaN sodium channel is increased.

28. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change

in activity of at least one SNS/PN3 sodium channel.

29. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the alteration in sodium ion current is due to a change in expression of at least one SNS/PN3 sodium channel.

30. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein the expression of the SNS/PN3 sodium channel is increased.

31. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the small dorsal root ganglia binds lectin IB4.

32. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the GDNF alters neuronal hyperexcitability associated with the pain.

33. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the pain is associated with paraesthesia.

34. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the mammal is a human.

35. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the composition is administered by intravenous, intrathecal, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection.

36. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the composition is administered orally.

37. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the GDNF is administered in combination with at least one second agent.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the second agent is an analgesic agent.

39. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the second agent alters sodium ion current in neuronal cells.

40. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the amount of GDNF effective to alleviate

the pain in the mammal is about 0.1 to about 100 µg per kg body weight.

41. (new) The method of claim 40 wherein the amount of amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the mammal is about 0.1 to about 10 µg per kg body weight.

42. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein the amount of amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the mammal is about 0.1 to 1.0 about µg per kg body weight.

43. (new) A method of treating pain in a mammal suffering from pain comprising administering a composition consisting essentially of an amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the mammal.

44. (new) A method of treating pain in a mammal suffering from pain comprising administering a composition consisting of an amount of GDNF effective to alleviate the pain in the mammal.